```
***** Test Message *****
**** DO NOT Deliver ****
Local Postmaster
North Pole, AK  99705
07-JAN-82 1352 0503 00019
07-JAN-82 1411 ABCD MIL PS
```

E-COM postal charges paid

E·COM™

Electronic
Computer Originated
First-Class Mail ®

```
***** Test Message *****
**** DO NOT Deliver ****
Local Postmaster
Dallas, TX  75226-6666
```

An E-COM test message distributed during the first week of the service, and an E-COM souvenir medallion.

E-COM and its Forerunners
Expediting U.S. Domestic Mail Electronically

Beginning in 1960, the United States Post Office Department and successor Postal Service tested several mailing systems that combined electronic transmission of written messages and graphic images by facsimile and telegraphy with postal delivery. Some of these systems briefly served the special needs of small groups of customers, but none achieved widespread success. Most ended in failure, and none survive today.

The most ambitious of these programs, *Electronic Computer Originated Mail (E-COM)*, launched in 1982 was also the most elaborate, with rates and services designed as incentives to business mailers. Its failure in 1985 was a huge disappointment to its advocates, who had failed to anticipate the pace of technology that rendered each new development obsolete within a few years of its birth.

This is the sequence of the exhibit:

Speed Mail, a government mail experiment that began in October 1960 and discontinued in February 1961.

Facsimile Mail Service tested same-day mail service posted by members of the public at New York City and Washington in 1971 and 1972.

Western Union Mailgram service, a business partnership between Western Union, a private firm, and the U.S. Postal Service, 1972 to 1997.

Electronic Computer Originated Mail (E-COM), 1982 to 1985.